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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/798,709	Applicant(s) LICON ET AL.	
	Examiner Paul Kim	Art Unit 2161	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is responsive to the following communication: Request for Continued Examination filed on 18 June 2007.
2. Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-18 are pending and present for examination.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

3. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 18 June 2007 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

4. Claims 1-3 and 5-7 have been amended.
5. Claims 4 and 8 have been cancelled.
6. Claims 9-18 have been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. **Claims 1-13 and 15** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barrera et al (U.S. patent No. 6,567,800, hereinafter referred to as BARRERA), filed on 1 October 1998, and issued

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on 20 May 2003, in view of Klein et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,704,729, hereinafter referred to as KLEIN), filed on 19 May 2000, and issued on 9 March 2004.

9. **As per independent claims 1 and 5**, BARRERA, in combination with KLEIN, teaches:

A method of displaying information comprising:

generating a plurality of content modules, each content module comprising a subset of content of a website {See BARRERA, C3:L56-66, wherein this reads over "[t]he memory 506 stores website content correlated with categories 508"};

storing the content modules in a content module data directory {See BARRERA, C3:L56-66, wherein this reads over "The memory 506 further stores category-content search instructions 509 adapted to be executed by the processor 505 to retrieve content from websites over a network and cause the retrieved content to be stored, to correlate a piece of content with a category, to receive a category selection from a user, to receive a keyword search from the user, and then to perform a content search on that stored website content which is correlated with the selected category."}, the content module data directory arranged in a data tree hierarchy having a plurality of tree nodes, wherein each tree node comprises a pointer to a content module and each node is associated with a subject category identifier {See KLEIN, C3:L46-61, wherein this reads over "a portion of a branch/node taxonomy tree 100 for an Internet search engine, wherein each node 109-137 has a category title or label relating to a search term"};

receiving a query {See BARRERA, C2:L59-62, wherein this reads over "a keyword search is carried out on the content (not just the descriptions or summaries of content) of websites that fall within the pertinent category"};

retrieving a plurality of URLs of web sites, the web sites having content satisfying criteria of the query {See BARRERA, C4:L1-3, wherein this reads over "[t]he category-content instructions 509 are further adapted to be executed by the processor 505 to send the results of a search to the user"};

selecting, based on the query, at least one matching subject category identifier {See KLEIN, C8:L34-55, wherein this reads over "step 502 scores and ranks the individual categories based on a relation of each category's content (e.g., web sites and category title) to user query 405, as well as a relation of the category's ancestors and descendents (i.e., grandparents, parents, children, and siblings) to user query 405"};

retrieving a first content module from the content module directory, the first content module associated with the matching subject category identifier {See KLEIN, C3:L25-45, wherein this reads over "category paths permit the display of search term-relevant categories (i.e., matching or subject node) in the context of other topically-related, but perhaps less search term-relevant relative categories"};

retrieving a second content module from the content module directory by traversing up or down the data tree hierarchy starting from a matching node associated with the matching subject category identifier {See KLEIN, Figure 8}; and

displaying information relating to the plurality of retrieved web sites and displaying said subset of content of a web site from said first and second content modules on a display screen {See KLEIN, Figure 7}.

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While BARRERA fails to expressly disclose a method of receiving a query and selecting, based on the query, a subject category identifier relevant to the query, KLEIN discloses the matching of the query to a subject node and its relative node(s). Additionally, while BARRERA fails to expressly disclose "a data tree hierarchy having a plurality of tree nodes, wherein each tree node comprises a pointer to a content module and each node is associated with a subject category identifier," KLEIN discloses a hierarchical taxonomy which allows for the traversal of related nodes within said hierarchy. Therefore, in light of the aforementioned disclosures by KLEIN, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above invention suggested by BARRERA by combining it with the invention disclosed by KLEIN. The results of this combination would lead to a method wherein a query would be matched to a subject category identifier most relevant to said query such that content from a related node within the data tree hierarchy may be retrieved alongside content from the matching node.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this modification such that results of a query may include content from a specific subject category.

10. **As per dependent claims 2 and 6, BARRERA, in combination with KLEIN, discloses:**

A method according to claim 1, wherein said information is displayed on a first region of the display screen and said subset of content of website is displayed on a second region of the display screen in response to a single input from a user {See BARRERA, Figures 4, 8, and 10}:

11. **As per dependent claims 3 and 7,**

A method according to claim 1, wherein each tree node in the data hierarchy is associated with one or more key numbers linking the tree to the subject category identifiers {See BARRERA, Figure 2}.

12. **As per dependent claim 9, BARRERA, in combination with KLEIN, discloses:**

The method of claim 1, wherein the data tree hierarchy comprises a parent node referencing a parent content module that contains general content for a topic, and a child node beneath the parent node in the data tree hierarchy, the child node referencing a child content module that contains specific content for a topic {See KLEIN, Figure 8}.

13. **As per dependent claim 10, BARRERA, in combination with KLEIN, discloses:**

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The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving the second content module from the content module directory comprises traversing up the data tree hierarchy from the matching node, wherein the second content module comprises more general content than the first content module {See KLEIN, C8:L34-55; and C10:L14-C12:L12}.

14. **As per dependent claim 11**, BARRERA, in combination with KLEIN, discloses:

The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving the second content module from the content module directory comprises traversing down the data tree hierarchy from the matching node, wherein the second content module comprises more specific content than the first content module {See KLEIN, Figure 8; C8:L34-55; and C10:L14-C12:L12}.

15. **As per dependent claim 12**, BARRERA, in combination with KLEIN, discloses:

The method of claim 1, wherein selecting the at least one subject category identifier comprises:

determining if an exact match exists between the query and entries in an exact match table {See KLEIN, C8:L4-21, wherein this reads over "[i]f search engine database 404 contains categories sufficiently similar to user query 405 (as discussed below in step 502 of FIG. 5), search engine server 404 provides a search result 406 . . . "; and

responsive to determining that no exact match exists, determining if an alternative match exists between the query and entries in an alternative match table {See KLEIN, C8:L4-21, wherein this reads over "[i]f search engine database 404 contains categories sufficiently similar to user query 405 (as discussed below in step 502 of FIG. 5), search engine server 404 provides a search result 406 . . . "};

16. **As per dependent claim 13**, BARRERA, in combination with KLEIN, discloses:

The method of claim 12, wherein retrieving the second content module from the content module directory comprises:

responsive to determining an exact match exists, traversing down the data tree hierarchy from the matching node, wherein the second content module comprises more specific content than the first content module {See KLEIN, C8:L47-55, wherein this reads over "[i]f two categories are a close match to user query 405, but one of the matching categories also has children that match user query 405, that category will be scored higher"}; and

responsive to determining an alternative match exists, traversing up the data tree hierarchy from the matching node, wherein the second content module comprises more general content than the first content module {See KLEIN, C8:L44-47, wherein this reads over "the common parent of those categories may be a more useful starting point than the list of individual child categories"}.

17. **As per dependent claim 15**, BARRERA, in combination with KLEIN, discloses:

The method of claim 1, wherein the information relating to the plurality of retrieved web sites and said subset of content of a web site from said first and second content modules are contemporaneously displayed on said display screen {See KLEIN, Figure 7; and C12:L15-36}.

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18. **Claim 14** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BARRERA, in view of KLEIN, and in further view of Official Notice.

19. **As per dependent claim 14**, the Examiner takes Official Notice that it would have been obvious and widely-known to one of ordinary skill in the art that a content module would comprise at least one of pictures, programs, charts, and tables, wherein a content module is directed to a web site found on the Internet.

Response to Arguments

20. Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejections of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion


21. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Kim whose telephone number is (571) 272-2737. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Apu Mofiz can be reached on (571) 272-4080. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Paul Kim
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2161
TECH Center 2100


APU MOFIZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER